1	2	3
22.	West Bengal	711,691
23.	Andaman & Nikobar Island	1,265
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	12,395
25.	Chandigarh	1,870
26.	Dadra& NagarHaveli	4,416
27.	Delhi	27,351
28.	Daman and Diu	941
29.	Goa	4,656
30.	Lakshadweep	34
31.	Mizoram	16,411
32.	Pondicherry	2,680
	TOTAL:	11,285,349

** Census could not be conducted. NB: Figures for 1991 relates to workers of age group 5-14 years.

Construction of super speciality Hospitals under ESI Scheme

991. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 261 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1 st August, 2002 and state:

(a) the State at which the construction of ESI Super Speciality hospital at Aramam (Kollam) in Kerala stands at present;

(b) the reasons for the delay in commencement of construction of the ESI Super speciality hospital;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any changes in the super speciality position of the hospital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d)The ESI Corporation has conveyed its approval to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) on 17.9.2002 to the Concept Plans for setting up a model hospital at Asramam (Kollam) with Cardiology (non-invasive) wing. The Corporation has proposed to

develop Asramam Hospital as a Model Hospital for Kerala. The conversion of Asramam hospital into a model hospital is subject to the consent of the State Government, which is still awaited. The matter is being pursued with the State Government of Kerala.

Safety/Protection of P.F. money

992. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Many P.Fs limit towards debt trap", which appeared in the Times of India dated the 8th October, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the corrective and preventive steps proposed to be taken in this regard for safety and protection of the Provident Fund money of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Only 1.35% of holding in EPF, the Pension Scheme and Employees Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) put together was invested in Government Guaranteed Securities as on 31.3.2002. Out of the total investment in Government Guaranteed Securities, Rs. 688.78 crore carry guarantee of the Central Government.The State governments guaranteed securities aggregate Rs. 687.70 crore which is only 0.67% of the total investments of Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund.

The investment of Rs. 5,029.54 crore are in State Development Loans on which interest servicing is done through the RBI and there is no default.

No investment have been made by the CBT, EPF in State Government guaranteed securities during the last one and a half year. Finance & Investment Committee, a sub-comittee of CBT, EPF in its 69th meeting held on 17.10.2002 reiterated its earlier decision not to invest in State Government Guaranteed Securities by giving utmost priority to safety of funds.